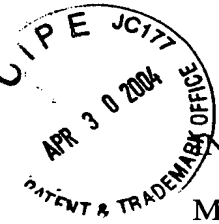


DOCKET NO: 204060US0PCT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

MASAHIDE SATO, ET AL. :

EXAMINER: SHERRER, C. E.

SERIAL NO: 09/763,864 :

FILED: MAY 23, 2001 :

GROUP ART UNIT: 1761

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
FERMENTATION PRODUCT :

AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.